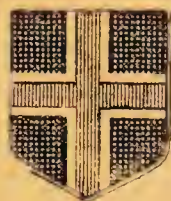


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THE CITY OF DURHAM CORPORATION.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND OTHER RECORDS

FOR 1940.

S. KNIBB YOUNG, M.D., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.,
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

DURHAM
G. BAILES & SONS, PRINTERS, ETC.

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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH (PART TIME):

S. KNIBB YOUNG, M.D., B.S., D.P.H., B.Hy.

SANITARY INSPECTOR:

G. W. RAGG, Cert. R.S.I., Cert.San.Insp.Exam.Bd. (London)
Certs. in Hygiene, etc.

MATRON OF ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

MISS E. SCORER, S.R.N.

CLERK:

W. E. CHAPMAN (Health Department).

DURHAM,

November, 1941.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my eleventh annual report being that for the year 1940.

The death rate of 14.8 is the highest figure recorded for the City during the past ten years, the total number of deaths having increased from 207 to 260. The principal causes of the increase were Acute Respiratory Disease with 35 deaths against 15 in the previous year, Cancer with 47 deaths against 25 and Cardio-vascular Disease with 89 against 73.

It is of some satisfaction to record that during the year there was not one single death from what are commonly known as the Acute Infectious Diseases.

The total deaths from Tuberculosis dropped from 17 to 15, which considering the changed circumstances of living, is a matter for considerable satisfaction.

The birth rate has declined to 14.1, a decrease no more than was to be expected in time of war.

The Infant Mortality Rate of 44, whilst being an increase on the figures of the two previous years, yet compares favourably with the County figure of 63 and that for England and Wales of 55.

The past year has shewn a marked improvement in the Casualty Services. The various depots and posts are now well established and the personnel, shewing commendable enthusiasm, have reached a high level of efficiency.

The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children has again been active within the City, and co-operation with this Society has produced results which have been beneficial to the welfare of the young.

I record with pleasure my gratitude for the generous and loyal assistance afforded me at all times by your Sanitary Inspector, the administrative Staff, and all ranks of the Casualty Services. All have shewn a devotion to duty beyond praise.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

S. KNIBB YOUNG,
Medical Officer of Health.

THE CITY OF DURHAM CORPORATION.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND OTHER RECORDS

for 1940.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in acres ... 4,029.

Registrar-General's estimate of resident population 1939 :—19,560

1940 :—17,840

Number of inhabited houses end of 1939 :—4,797.

1940 :—4,804.

Rateable value :—(1939), £118,012. (1940,) £118,434.

Sum represented by a 1d. rate :—(1939) £456 14s. 9½d.

(1940) £461 18s. 8d.

UNEMPLOYMENT.

The estimated number of unemployed men in the City at the end of 1939 was 550, being 12½% of Insured men employed.

At the end of 1940 the estimated number of unemployed was 150 being 5.5% of insured men employed.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

BIRTHS.

Live Births :—	TOTAL.	M.	F.	
Legitimate	240	114	126	Birth-rate (per 1,000 population) 14·07.
Illegitimate	11	5	6	
Stillbirths :—				
Legitimate	9	7	2	Rate per 1,000 total births 35.
Illegitimate	nil	nil	nil	

DEATHS.

260	127	133	Death-rate per 1,000 population) 14·57.
-----	-----	-----	--

Rate per 1,000 total

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES.					Deaths. (live & still) births.	
Total ...	...	...	...	...	3	11.5

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE :—

All infants, per 1,000 live births (11 deaths)	44
Legitimate infants, per 1,000 legitimate births	46
Illegitimate infants, per 1,000 illegitimate births	nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	47
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	1

DEATHS AT VARIOUS AGE PERIODS.

All Ages.	0—1	1—	2—	5—	15—	25—	45—	65—
260	11	5	1	18	17	39	88	81

BIRTH RATE, DEATH RATE, AND INFANT MORTALITY
OVER TEN YEARS.

	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940
Birth Rate	16·8	15·1	15·0	16·5	14·5	14·0	14·9	14·7	15·3	14·1
Death Rate	13·0	11·9	11·7	11·4	11·7	12·0	12·9	11·7	10·8	14·8
Infant Mortality	57	71	80	72	56	92	50	28	37	44

TABLE COMPARING THE BIRTH RATE, DEATH RATE
AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1940
OF ENGLAND AND WALES, ETC., WITH THAT FOR DURHAM
CITY.

	Birth Rate per 1,000 Population		Death Rate per 1000 Popula- tion.	Rate per 1,000 Live Births.	
	Live Births.	Still Births.	All Causes.	Diarrhoea and Enteritis under two years.	Total deaths under one year.
England and Wales ...	14·6	0·55	14·3	4·6	55
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London	16·0	0·64	15·8	5·9	61
148 Smaller Towns, (Esti- mated Resident Popu- lations 25,000 to 50,000 at Census 1931)	15·7	0·55	12·8	4·4	54
London	13·7	0·44	17·8	5·8	50
Administrative County of Durham	17·1	0·70	13·0	5·3	63
Durham City	14·07	0·50	14·6	0·05	44

CAUSES OF DEATH IN DURHAM BOROUGH, 1940.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Total.	M.	F.
ALL CAUSES.....	260	127	133
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	—	—	—
Measles.....	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Influenza	13	9	4
Encephalitis Lethargica.....	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever.....	—	—	—
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System.....	11	10	1
Other Tuberculosis Diseases.....	4	—	4
Syphilis.....	—	—	—
Cancer—Malignant Disease	47	23	24
Diabetes	1	1	—
Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc.....	24	10	14
Heart Disease.....	57	23	34
Other Circulatory Diseases.....	8	2	6
Bronchitis.....	13	8	5
Pneumonia	9	7	2
Other Respiratory Diseases.....	2	2	—
Peptic Ulcers	2	2	—
Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years)	1	1	—
Appendicitis	1	—	1
Other Digestive Diseases.....	10	3	7
Acute and Chronic Nephritis.....	5	3	2
Puerperal Sepsis.....	—	—	—
Other Puerperal Causes.....	3	—	3
Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformations, etc.....	7	4	3
Suicide	1	—	1
Road Traffic Accidents	5	4	1
Other Violent Causes	3	3	—
All Other Causes.....	33	12	21

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES REPORTED DURING THE YEAR.

DISEASE.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Smallpox	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	32	30	—
Diphtheria	24	33	—
Enteric Fever.....	1	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia.....	1	—	—
Pneumonia	9	—	9
Erysipelas.....	9	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever.....	—	2	—
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Whooping Cough.....	33	—	—
Measles	275	25	—

ANALYSIS OF CASES OF SCARLET FEVER AND
DIPHTHERIA.

Ages ...	0—	1—	2—	3—	4—	5—	10—	15—	20—	35—	45—	65—
Scarlet Fever	—	2	2	2	4	10	4	3	4	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	2	—	2	1	8	6	1	2	4	1	1

TUBERCULOSIS.

AGE PERIODS.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary.		Non Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non- Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 — 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 — 5	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—
5 — 10	1	—	2	2	—	—	—	—
10 — 15	—	—	2	2	1	—	—	—
15 — 20	—	1	1	3	—	—	—	—
20 — 25	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
25 — 35	4	2	—	—	2	—	—	1
35 — 45	1	—	—	1	2	—	—	—
45 — 55	2	1	—	—	2	1	—	1
55 — 65	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	2
65 and Upwards	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
TOTALS	10	5	8	9	10	1	—	4

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF AREA.

Water.—The supply which is obtained from the mains of the Durham County Water Board has been plentiful and wholesome throughout the year. No complaints have been received by me as to its purity or quality.

HOUSE DRAINAGE DURING THE YEAR.

Drains were examined, tested and found satisfactory on the following premises by the Sanitary Inspector:—

Durham County Hospital ; Nevilles Cross College ; Northern Bus Station ; 11, Leazes Place ; 14, Young Street ; 4, Princes Street ; “The Mount” 115, Gilesgate ; 35, Sutton Street ; 15, Sutton Street ; and 39, North Bailey, a total of 264 yards of new drains and 7 inspection chambers.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The Sewerage for the whole of the City, with the exception of the South Road can be dealt with.

BATHS AND WASHHOUSES.

The new Baths and Washhouses maintain their popularity.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

Weekly collections of house refuse are made by Motor transport to Shincliffe Tip. A bi-weekly collection is in operation from Hotels and Restaurants. The refuse is disposed of by an approved method of controlled tipping. Salvage operations of an extensive nature are being carried out for the duration of the war.

STREET CLEANSING.

An efficient service is in operation.

ADDITIONAL WATER CLOSETS ERECTED DURING THE YEAR.

New Houses	...	...	7
New Buildings and alterations			nil.
Conversions	...	...	nil.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The water carriage system is in operation in 98.2 % of the conveniences.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No complaints have been made arising from excessive smoke issue from factory chimneys.

SCHOOLS.

The Sanitary conditions with regard to cleanliness and water supply is satisfactory.

SHOPS.

Fifty-eight inspections were made for the purpose of ascertaining if the provisions of the Shops Acts were being complied with.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

One house with accommodation for 70 persons at 36, Framwellgate, is used for this purpose. Regular visits have been made and a good standard is maintained.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT,
1901, AND THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937

PREMISES.	Number of		
	Inspection.	Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted.
Factories with mechanical power	58	8	—
Factories without mechanical power	36	6	—
Other premises under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction but not including out-workers' premises) ...	5	—	—
Total	99	14	—

2. DEFECTS FOUND AND REMEDIED.

PARTICULARS.	Number of Defects.	
	Found.	Remedied.
Want of Cleanliness	3	3
Sanitary Conveniences (defective)	6	6
Other offences	5	5
Total	14	14

SUMMARY OF WORK DONE IN THE SANITARY INSPECTOR'S
DEPARTMENT DURING THE YEAR 1940.

I.—PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.	Number of Informal written Notices by Inspector.	Number of Formal Notices by order of Authority.	Number of Nuisances abated after Notice.
Dwelling-houses and Schools—			
Foul Conditions	13	—	13
Structural Defects	646	—	646
Overcrowding	5	—	5
Lodging-houses	—	—	—
Dairies and Milkshops	12	—	12
Cowsheds	26	—	26
Bakehouses	—	—	—
Slaughter-houses	18	—	18
Ashpits and Privies	96	—	96
Deposits of Refuse and Manure	20	—	20
Waterclosets	115	—	115
Defective Yard Paving	59	—	59
House Drainage—			
Defective Traps	—	—	—
No Disconnection from Sewers	—	—	—
Other Faults	119	—	119
Water Supply	15	—	15
Pigsties	2	—	2
Animals Improperly Kept	3	—	3
Offensive Trades	—	—	—
Smoke Nuisances	27	—	27
Other Nuisances:—			
Lack of proper Dust Bins	38	—	38
Rat Infestation	11	—	11
TOTALS	1225	—	1225

II.—WATER, FOOD AND DRUGS.

Samples of Water taken for Analysis	...	...	...	nil
Samples of Water condemned as unfit for use		...	...	nil
Seizures of Unwholesome Food (as follows)		...	...	19
1 Bovine Head and Tongue affected with Tuberculosis.				
3 Bovine Livers affected with Distomatosis.				
1 Set of Bovine Lungs affected with Tuberculosis.				
976 Tins of Fruit and other Foods.				
625 lbs. of Plums.				
118 lbs. of Apples.				
200 lbs. of Bacon and Ham.				
6 lbs. of Meat Roll and 56 lbs. of Smoked Haddocks.				

Convictions for exposing or selling Unwholesome Food	...	...	...	...	nil
Samples of Food and Drugs taken for Analysis	...	...	...	...	nil
Samples of Food found Adulterated	...	...	...	...	nil

III.—PRECAUTIONS AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Lots of Infectious Bedding stoved or destroyed	...	...	...	101
Houses disinfected after Infectious Disease	...	...	...	70
Schools disinfected after Infectious Disease	...	...	...	nil
Prosecutions for exposures of infected persons or things	...	...	...	nil
Convictions for exposure of infected persons or things	...	...	...	nil

IV.—GENERAL.

Number of New Houses erected during year	...	...	...	7
Number of such Houses occupied during year	...	...	...	7
Ashpit-privies converted into Ash-closets	...	...	...	nil
Ashpit-privies converted into Water-closets	...	...	...	nil
Ash-closets converted into Water-closets	...	...	...	nil
Total number of Water-closets in District	...	...	...	5486
Total number of Ash-closets in District	...	...	...	60
Total number of Ash-pit privies in District	...	...	...	26

G. W. RAGG,

Sanitary Inspector.

SLUM CLEARANCE.

During the year 1940, 27 tenants comprising 99 persons were removed to Council Houses from Clearance Areas or from dwellings where Closing or Demolition Orders were operative. Up to the end of the year 802 tenants comprising 3,600 persons have been displaced and re-housed during slum clearance operations. The usual methods were employed for ensuring that the belongings of tenants were free from vermin.

Building operations in the erection of new houses are suspended for the duration of the war.

The total number of additional houses prior to the close of last year, in connection with various housing schemes, exclusive

of 823 erected in connection with clearance schemes is 183 this being a total of 1,006.

The number erected during 1938 under clearance schemes was 333.

The number erected by private enterprise since 1919 with the aid of subsidies under the Act is 25.

The number erected without the aid of a subsidy is 475.

The total number of additional houses since 1919 inclusive of 823 erected in connection with clearance schemes is 1506.

OVERCROWDING ABATED 1940.

			<i>Dwellings.</i>	<i>Persons.</i>
Clearance Orders	...	...	18	77
Closing Orders	...	...	1	5
			—	—
			19	82
			—	—

Since the year 1934, overcrowding has been relieved to the extent of 531 dwellings occupied by 2,831 persons.

BILLETING.

At the end of the year there were 131 persons billeted in the Area under Government Evacuation schemes.

HOUSING.

The opening of hostilities at the beginning of September, 1939, made it necessary for the Minister of Health to review without delay the action to be taken by Local Authorities in relation to their normal housing work. Consequently, on September 8th, 1939, the Minister issued Circular 1866 to all Local Authorities in England and Wales, pointing out that their powers and duties under the Housing (Emergency Powers) Act, 1939, and the essential Buildings

and Plant (Repair of War Damage) Act, 1939, might possibly involve them in a considerable amount of work.

The Circular stated that at the moment it was not possible to envisage just how the normal activities of Housing Authorities would be affected by the war, but for the time being, at any rate, the Minister had decided that it was necessary to defer the holding of public inquiries into Slum Clearance Orders. Local Authorities were therefore instructed to take no further steps in connection with any Orders which had not reached the stage of local inquiry. As regards any Orders on which the inquiry had already been held, the Minister proposed to postpone his decision or the issue of his Order, unless he was satisfied on representations by the Local Authority that there were special circumstances which made it desirable that action should proceed. At the same time, even if an Order had been confirmed by the Minister, the Local Authority were generally to avoid taking any steps which would lead to the actual demolition of old properties. This policy, it was stated, was necessary because in view of the possible destruction of housing accommodation by attack from the air, it was clearly desirable that the existing supply of accommodation should not be diminished. Similar conditions were to apply to individual demolition orders and re-development schemes. The postponement of the demolition of unfit property has allowed the provision of replacement accommodation to be deferred, with the result that the current building programmes of Local Authorities have been severely restricted. The Minister of Health has stated in Parliament that the housing position is under close and continuous review in relation to the demands on building materials and building labour for other purposes and also in the light of the financial position.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

(1) INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

a. Total number of houses inspected for	
housing defects	187
b. Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	374

(2) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—

(a) By Owners	...	...	...	...	...	187
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	...					1

HOUSING ACT, 1936, PART IV—OVERCROWDING.

(1) Number of dwelling houses overcrowded at the end of the year	...	...	...	...	...	115
(2) Number of families dwelling therein	...	...				115
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein	...	...				408
(4) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	...	...	...	...	nil
(5) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	...	...	...	...	18
(6) Number of persons concerned in such cases	...					77

HOUSE INSPECTION.

The procedure adopted during the year was as follows:—

Owners of property where systematic inspections have taken place and defects found have been written to.

These houses have been inspected again for the purpose of ascertaining whether the notices by letter had received attention and in default thereof would have been reported to the Committee to consider the service of notices under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936.

Owing to delay and difficulty in obtaining building materials and the procedure which must of necessity be carried out in the service of Section 9, notices (obviously not at all necessary in every instance) it was decided to deal with all properties in the manner stated above.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.

At the end of the year there were 14 Cowkeepers, 21 Dairies and Purveyors of Milk, 31 shops supplying milk in bottles and 29 Registered Purveyors with premises outside the area.

COWSHEDS AND DIARIES.

Periodic inspections of Cowsheds and Dairies are made by the Sanitary Inspector under the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

In accordance with the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, the following animals were inspected after slaughter during the month of January:—

Bovines	...	...	45
Sheep	...	...	151
Pigs	...	...	88

The following organs were condemned, surrendered and destroyed:—

- 1 Bovine Head and Tongue affected with Tuberculosis.
- 1 Bovine Set of Lungs affected with Tuberculosis.
- 3 Bovine Livers affected with Distomatosis.

After January, 1940, centralized slaughter of food animals was adopted throughout the Country presumably for the duration of the war at slaughterhouses controlled by the Ministry of Food.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

There are 9 slaughterhouses in the district, three of which are in a dilapidated condition and could be demolished by taking action under Section 58 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

FOOD AND DRUGS (ADULTERATION) ACT, 1928-1938.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1940.

The work under this Act is performed by an Inspector of the County Council of Durham and during the past year the following samples were submitted by him to the Public Analyst for examination, viz.:—

Aspirin	...	...	...	2	Grounds Almonds	...	3
Boracic Acid Powder	...	...	...	2	Ground Cinnamon	...	1
British Sherry	...	...	...	1	Gregory's Powder	...	1
Calcium Lactate Tablets	...	...	...	1	Liquid Extract of Cascara	...	1
Camphorated Oil	...	...	...	1	Luncheon Sausage	...	1
Chemical Food	...	...	...	2	Medicinal Liquid Paraffin	...	1
Cod Liver Oil	...	...	...	2	Mixed Peel	...	1
Coffee	...	...	...	1	New Milk	...	15
Compound Bismouth	...	...	...	1	Olive Oil	...	1
Lozenges	...	...	...	1	Pasteurised Milk	...	5
Compound Powder of	...	...	...	1	Purified Cream of Tartar	...	1
Liquorice	...	...	...	1	Sterilised Milk	...	1
Full Cream Milk	...	...	...	1	White Pepper	...	1
Glycerine of Thymol	...	...	...	1			

Total number of Samples taken—49.

Of the 49 samples taken only 3 samples of New Milk were reported to be very slightly below standard. The deficiencies did not warrant the institution of legal proceedings.



